

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DOHA 01368 151115Z
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01
SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 PRS-01 PA-02 /061 W
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O R 151047Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY DOHA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2105
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY ROME
RUQMH
/AMEMBASSY TEHRAN 0471

UEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 0022
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS EOHA 1368

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, OPEC, QA
SUBJ: OPEC MINISTERIAL: OPENING CEREMONIES

REF: DOHA 1366 AND PREVIOUS

1. INDONESIAN MINING MINISTER AND OPEC PRESIDENT SADLI IN BRIEF
PRELIMINARY REMARKS AT OPENING CEREMONIES OF 48TH OPEC MINISTER-
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IAL MEETING MORNING OF DEC 15 WAS VERY MODERATE AND EMPHASIZED

THE GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF OPEC. HE SPOKE OF THE NEED FOR OPEC IN ITS DELIBERATIONS AND DECISIONS TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE EFFECT OF OIL PRICES ON INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY/RECOVERY IN THE WEST AND ON LDCS. SIGNIFICANTLY, SADLI MADE NO MENTION OF PRICE INCREASE, IMPORTED INFLATION OR INDEXATION.

2. IN HIS SPEECH FORMALLY OPENING RONCLAVE, QATARI AMIR, SHAYKH KHALIFA BIN HAMAD AL THANI, AFTER GREETING DELEGATES AND WELCOMING THEM TO QATAR, REVIEWED THE HISTORY OF OPEC, PUTTING EMPHASIS ON GOALS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF OPEC AND ITS HISTORY OF MODERATION AND GENEROSITY TOWARD LDCS. IN THIS CONNECTION, SHAYKH KHALIFA CITED PERCENTAGES OF GNP OF OPEC STATES AND OF INDUSTRIAL STATES GIVEN AS ASSISTANCE TO LDCS. HE ALSO COMPARED ASSISTANCE TOTALS OF INDUSTRIAL STATES TO LDCS WITH WORLD DEFENSE SPENDING. SHAYKH KHALIFA STATED THAT SINCE OPEC IS PREPARED TO COME TO THE ASSISTANCE OF INDUSTRIAL STATES AND MAKE SACRIFICES FOR THEIR BENEFIT AND THAT OF THE WORLD IN GENERAL, THERE SHOULD BE "FAIR BALANCE" BETWEEN OIL PRICES AND PRICE OF IMPORTED INDUSTRIAL GOODS. HE CONCLUDED BY STATING THAT OPEC STATES ARE INTRINSICALLY OPPOSED TO GREED, BEAR NO GRUDGES AND ARE SEEKING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL JUSTICE.

3. OPENING CEREMONIES CARRIED LIVE ON QATAR RADIO AND TELEVISION. FULL TEXTS OF AMIR'S AND SADLI'S SPEECHES SHOULD BE AVAILABLE THROUGH FBIS.

PAGANELLI

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